National Afforestation Programme in A.P.

671. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Afforestation Programme implemented in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the details of Forest Development Agencies projects approved for Andhra Pradesh in the last five years, year-wise, and the allocation made for the same, year-wise; and

(c) the increase and forest cover in the State in view of the above efforts in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) and (b) The National Afforestation Programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for regeneration and eco-development of degraded forests and adjoining areas in all States including Andhra Pradesh through a two-tier decentralized setup of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. As on 30.09.2008, 37 FDA projects in Andhra Pradesh have been approved and project assistance provided as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Year	No. of FDAs assisted	Amount released
1.	2004-05	25	14.21
2.	2005-06	13	7.08
3.	2006-07	21	11.06
4.	2007-08	24	9.97
5.	2008-09	04*	2.33*

* Position as on 30.09.2008

(c) Assessment of forest cover specifically due to the efforts under the National Afforestation Programme has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Recyclable wastes from US and UK

672. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India permitted imports of 9,00,000 tonnes of recyclable wastes from US and UK during 2006-2007;

(b) whether unsorted paper waste imported as recyclable waste has been found to yield only 10 to 15 per cent as reclaimed and re-usable and the rest pure garbage;

(c) whether under the garb of charity, large volume of computer hardware is imported which are e-waste sent to India for reclamation; and

(d) the steps that are being taken to check these clandestine imports of recyclable wastes into India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wildlife in the country

673. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wildlife in the country is on the brink of extinction;

(b) whether the strength of the tigers in the forests which was about 40,000 a few decades ago has been reduced to 1500; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to protect the wildlife in general and the tigers in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Fluctuation in population of wild animals is a natural phenomenon. However, there are no specific reports available with this Ministry to indicate that the wildlife in the country is on the brink of extinction.

(b) As per the findings of the recent all India Estimation of tiger using refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The recent assessment of tiger population is based on determining spatial occupancy of tigers throughout potential tiger forests and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pug marks owing to several shortcomings in the latter.

(c) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife including tigers are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation including wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.

2. The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation by, *interalia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, constitution of State level Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

3. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife. It includes 36 Tiger Reserves which have been established with focus on tiger conservation.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.

5. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz. -Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including tigers.